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**Thursday, August 2, 2012**

# THE MORNING NEWS

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## FARC leader says Colombian officials against peace

BOGOTA (AFP) - A high-ranking commander of Colombia's leftist FARC guerrillas claims peace talks to end the group's decades-old rebellion are being blocked by government officials who benefit from the conflict.

"We must stop this war by reaching an agreement ... without hatred, without benefits, by making concessions," said Jose Benito Cabrera, in an interview broadcast Tuesday evening on the private television station Caracol.

But he accused Colombia's "political class" of not wanting to negotiate, saying lower-ranking soldiers want peace but "their leaders, their supervisors don't permit it, because it would mean an end of business for them," without offering any details.

Cabrera, also known as Fabian Ramirez, also warned that, even though the FARC

pledged earlier this year to cease kidnapping civilians for ransom, the militants would continue to seize soldiers.

The guerrillas kidnapped French journalist Romeo Langlois in April during a clash with the military. He was released about a month later.

This was Cabrera's first public appearance since November 2010, when he was thought to have been killed in a bombing raid by Colombian forces in the south of the country. He is wanted under 13 arrest warrants on charges that include terrorism, murder and drug trafficking.

In recent months, the FARC has proposed direct dialogue with Colombian President Juan Miguel Santos to put an end to the conflict.

In June, Colombia's congress passed a constitutional reform bill that would allow negotiations to go forward.

## Tiara Air has earned its permits to fly their Boeing jet "Arawak"

CEO of Tiara Air Aruba airlines, Alejandro Muyale joined Aruba's Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber and Acting Director of the Aruba Civil Aeronautics Directorate, (DCA) Tito Reed in making the ground breaking announcement yesterday morning that after a lengthy inspection and certification process, the Aruba based airline has finally acquired the necessary permits to begin operating the Boeing 737-330 jet they brought to the island.

regular service to Medellin, Colombia, Maracaibo, Venezuela and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, beginning September 2.

Tito Reed confirmed that issuing operating permits for jet aircraft traveling to international destinations is a very complex process, requiring complying with the statutes and regulations of the various countries involved, as well as Tiara pilots being tested and approved for their expertise and knowledge.

This is the first of two



Tito Reed of DCA, Alejandro Muyale and Minister Oduber



Alejandro Muyale CEO of Tiara Air Aruba

such jets Tiara is scheduled to obtain and have certified for long distance destinations, as part of an agreement made in 2011 with the Ministry of Tourism and Transport. The second jet is tagged to service a route between Aruba and Boston, among others.

Continued on page 3

land last February.

It was a jubilant announcement for all parties involved, as Tiara Air is considered an excellent example of visionary and responsible entrepreneurial enterprise by a local concern, providing a greatly needed service to the community.

The company was built on two prop planes servicing routes between Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire, Punto Fijo, Venezuela and Riohacha, Colombia. Now, with a 150-seat jet, they plan to establish

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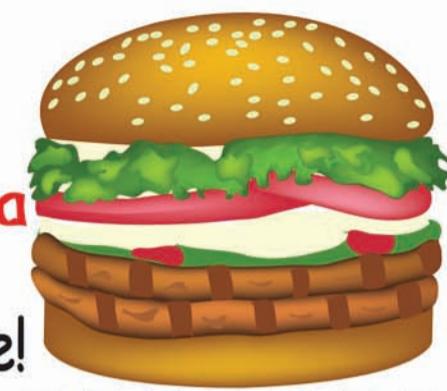
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## Valero presents certificates to 4 youngsters



Four more youngsters in the Social Formation program, this past week received their certificates. This group is the group that worked for four months in the Valero Refinery in fulfillment of their internship period. The four were exposed to all phases of the work for the scrutiny of everyone involved. Everyone who cooperated to make the presentation of certificates a reality was particularly pleased and proud of the moment.

Parents and family who played an important role in this social project were present to share in the occasion. The Commandant of the Marines, Mr. Hofma, and Captain Werleman were also in attendance.

Werleman, reportedly, was especially involved in guiding the young people during the first four months of the program.

Also present were General Director of Valero, Mr. Buckley, as well as VNO representative Diederik Ten Holder, project coordinator Jessy Ras and Prime Minister Mike Eman.

Before presenting the certificates and gifts of appreciation, they showed a film of some of the work that these youngsters did during their internship at Valero. They were taught how to do welding; they learned how to measure and work with cement blocks and build a brick wall, and more.

All the work was done under the guidance and supervision of Valero employees who took the time to dedicate to these young men.

The four young men who received their certificates are: Franklin Henriquez, Bernardo Vos, Benedict Croes and Jean Pierre Winterdaal. Bernardo Vos received much praise for his outstanding performance, having excelled above his colleagues. This also earned him a beautifully engraved glass memento. The inscription reads: "whether it's a simple task or complex project, at the end of the day performance counts."

The presentation of certificates was followed by a well deserved festive time.

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## Last weeks to register for Rietveld preparatory course

ORANJESTAD -- According to the organizers, these are the last weeks for registration for the Preparatory Arte Visual & Design course by Rietveld. The Department of Culture is alerting everyone interested in this course to not miss the opportunity. To register one must comply with the requirements. Upon registration each registrant will receive certain tasks to complete which must be presented on the day of the admissions interview.

In view of the fact that Aruba is currently working on what is called "Creative Industry," enrolling in this course would be an excellent opportunity to take a course on the HBO (college) level in the area of visual art and design. The student will get a clear view of how classes are taught in an art academy and be able to work more independently than is customary on Aruba. During this period students will prepare a solid and extensive portfolio in different disciplines.

The Rietveld Program will be comprised of three topics and theories. During the 30 weeks of the course of study, teachers will help students prepare an extensive, professional portfolio.

Classes will deal with different disciplines in visual arts and design, for example: photography, sketching, painting, modeling, video and much more. All classes will be taught in English.

Students who successfully complete the preparatory course are guaranteed acceptance into this prestigious Dutch art academy, the Gerrit Rietveld Academy of Rotterdam. For those wanting to remain closer to home, in 2013 they will begin offering

the college level course here in Aruba.

Reportedly, the new academic year to begin this November will begin with a sizeable enrollment. Classes will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 6:30 in the afternoon. Entrance into the program will entail an admissions procedure which includes an interview and the demonstration of independent work and tasks to be completed at home. Students must have earned either the HAVO, VWO, or MBO4 diploma or their equivalent.

The entire course has a price tag of Afls.1200 per Aruban student. Students from the Netherlands will pay E1728 Euros, while American students and students from the region will be levied \$1200. The fee includes all course material.

Students can apply here in Aruba as well as in Holland. Registration dates for Aruba are: Department of Culture: Friday, August 24th and Monday August 27th, 2012.

In Holland registration will be at:

Gerrit Rietveld Academy Amsterdam: Friday, June 11th and Monday, September 3rd, 2012.

The registration form can be downloaded from: www.cultura.aw. This must be sent along with two passport photos and a copy of your passport to:

Department of Culture Aruba

Attention: Julianne Paskel  
J.E. Irausquinplein 2a,  
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For more information, call DCA at: 582-2185 or email to: julienepaskel@cultura.aw

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## Tiara Air has earned its permits to fly...

Continued from page 1



Minister with DCA and Tiara Air teams

Alejandro Muyale conceded it was a "long, stressful, and often frustrating journey, but we have finally arrived at this great day, thanks to the Minister, the team from the DCA, and the Aruban people, who have loyally supported us in establishing a native Aruban airline."

by Rosalie Klein



## Curacao coalition loses majority

WILLEMSTAD - The government of Prime Minister Gerrit Schotte need to find a new partner to maintain his majority coalition in the Curacao government, because Eugene Cleopa of MAN has decided to pull out his support. "I had no other option," contends Cleopa.

Pundits believe it is obvious that Schotte's party offered Anthony Godett of FOL the opportunity to join the coalition. Godett, in recent months, hinted his willingness several times to give Schotte his support. With this, the Schotte Cabinet can retain the majority in parliament. Before the loss of Cleopa's seat, the ratio was eleven against ten. It is expected that the party of Godett will be offered a ministerial post in exchange for his support.

At one point eight years ago, Godett was poised to become prime minister of the Netherlands Antilles; but a conviction for corruption mitigated his chances. Godett then pushed his sister to the

forefront of the party.

The current political crisis appears to be independent of the precarious financial situation of the island. It began early last week when MP Eugene Cleopa said in an interview with the party executive that he no longer supported the coalition. "The social democratic party - MAN - has pushed its values and norms more and more into the background to remain in the coalition," was his reason.

Repeated personal attacks against Cleopa from coalition partner Helmin Wiels, leader of the independence party Pueblo Soberano, appears to have also motivated Cleopa's decision, as they were virulent and undignified, with Wiels suggesting "he should order a coffin, because he is practically dead as a politician".

Cleopa's withdrawal appears to be a personal decision, as he did not wish to withdraw from his party but asked them to support him and to break with the coalition, however they refused.

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## Aruba's tourism entities officially endorse 4-point program by Animal Rights Aruba



L.-r., Jan van Ness, Natalie Booij, Peter Barendson, Ronella Tjin-Asjoe-Croes and Minister Otmar Oduber

Aruba's Minister of Tourism, Otmar Oduber and CEO of the Aruba Tourism Authority, Ronella Tjin-Asjoe-Croes, joined representatives of the island's official animal control agency and volunteers from Animal Rights Aruba, ARA, to announce a concerted effort to deal humanely with the street dog population, which sometimes sheds a negative light on Aruba's tourism product.

Dr. Natalie Booij, consulting veterinarian and spokesperson for ARA, and Dr. Peter Barendson, head of the government's veterinary office, both agreed it is a complex issue, without "easy solutions." Dr. Booij outlined a 4-pronged approach to a more permanent and humane method of dealing with dogs on the streets based on "Awareness, Education, Law and well-executed sterilization program."

President of the Board that administrates Aruba's Tourism Product Enhancement Fund, TPEF, Jan van Ness expressed their enthusiasm ARA's well-detailed and

thought out proposal, when announcing the TPEF will fund their program with 300,000 Aruban florins, to be divided in two donations, of 200,000 florins now and another 100,000 by the end of the year.

The first part of the program is dedicated to making islanders aware of the need to be "responsible dog owners," keeping only as many dogs as they can afford to feed and medicate properly, as well as keeping them on their property and providing proper training.

The first part also relates to Education; lectures, posters, stickers and other means of raising consciousness that an over population of dogs and cats is not the government's problem to solve, but must be accomplished on an individual basis.

A crucial aspect is, undeniably, proper laws enacted to cite those who mistreat and neglect their dogs and cats, some of which already exist, but are, unfortunately, not properly enforced by Community Police. There is re-

vised legislation now being considered in Parliament, which will address the issue of "Responsible Pet Ownership," as was as other stipulations, such as obtaining permits when wishing to breed a dog, or citations issued for troublesome or aggressive dogs, with the possibility to legally remove a dog from an owner that mistreats or seriously neglects it.

"We have already started a program of informing individuals they are in violation of existing law regarding keeping their dogs off the street and they could face serious fines," reports Dr. Booij, "however, we need support from proper authorities to back up these regulations."

Dr. Barendson related the fact that a study done a few years ago found that 8 of the 10 dogs seen on the streets or beaches actually have owners who allow them to wander about. The dogs are drawn to the beaches because tourists often treat them kindly *and feed them.*

Continued on page 5

## Bandit is looking for friends

We would like to introduce Bandit to you: a donkey that finds his home at the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. We happened to discover him trespassing. During feeding time he jumps away from the herd, runs for a while and comes back to eat. And that ritual was not known to the volunteers, so they went to investigate. And yes, the donkey was an intruder, who had jumped the fence to come inside. Together with a few visitors, the donkey was herded into a coral, because a stallion is not allowed to be in the herd. The helpful visitors named this donkey 'criminal' behavior. After his castration Bandit was released into the herd and he was accepted really fast. Normally that might take a while, but Bandit was welcome after one day already. He is a gorgeous, but shy donkey. He is not dominant, but petting him or having him pose for a picture remains a problem.

This beautiful donkey has been provided with a chip, just like all the other donkeys. On the chip is information about the donkey and its medical history. The donkeys at the sanctuary have a lot of friends with whom they can play all day long. And they love living there: they are well-cared for,



they are fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers for the sanctuary.

The volunteers of the sanctuary are hoping that somebody will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG 30,- per month for the donkey's keep. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website. So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933 or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba

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## Aruba's tourism entities officially endorse 4-point program...

*Continued from page 4*

ARA already maintains a volunteer force that will take dogs in distress off the street, "but we need people who call us to give us more detailed information about the animal or to be willing to help us apprehend it;" too often the dog is gone by the time ARA people arrive to pick it up, and the caller is no where to be found.

The issue of Aruba's street dog population is very common, if not far worse, throughout the region. Various island agencies with concerns are

working together to establish a viable system to best help solve it in a humane manner, was the message conveyed by the parties involved during the press conference at the Westin Resort on Wednesday morning, August 1. However, any solution must start with the populace and their attitude towards their dogs and cats, providing them with proper care, keeping them off the streets, and neutering them so to put an end to more unwanted animals.

*by Rosalie Klein*



**ARA Spokesperson Dr Natalie Booij and Dr Peter Barendson**

**Carubbian Festival is tonight!**



SAN NICOLAS -- Every Thursday evening, islanders flock to San Nicolas to enjoy the fabulous bargains and entertainment of the Carubbian Festival, a mix of Aruban and Caribbean traditions kept alive by the multi-cultural make up of Aruba's "Sunrise City."

Originally populated by the thousands that came from all over the Caribbean to work at the refinery, the town has savored and preserved the food, music and dance that many brought with them from their various regions. The festival, from 6:00 to 9:15 p.m., revels in the diverse background of San Nicolas, offering unique dishes and beverages, along with a full evening of island entertainment.

A full roster of some of Aruba's finest criollo entertainers follows including folkloric musical groups, dance groups solo singers, limbo dance by "Miguel Philips" and Carnival show by "Carna-Aruba," and this is only on the main stage!

Scattered throughout the main street of San Nicolas are performance areas surround by seating where you can settle in with an island snack or dinner, including music by steel pan and Brass band."

Island visitors can enjoy the Carubbian festival as part of a complete package available at all De Palm and concierge desks, which include transportation. You can customize your evening by purchasing with or without food and refreshments. A variety of local handicrafts are offered for sale and the event guarantees a good time for all, with an authentic introduction to the island experience.

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## Judge in Florida teen shooting case refuses to withdraw

MIAMI (AFP) - The judge in the Trayvon Martin murder trial has rejected a request from the neighborhood watch guard who fatally shot the unarmed black teen that he withdraw from the case, according to court documents released yesterday.

Florida Judge Kenneth Lester said in his ruling that defendant George Zimmerman's motion was "legally insufficient," as he dismissed the petition that he stand down.

Zimmerman has been charged with second-degree murder over the February 26 incident, in which he shot and killed Martin, 17, in the city of Sanford following an alleged dispute.

Zimmerman had asked Judge Lester to step down

from the case, saying in a motion that he would not get a fair trial after the judge rebuked him over a lack of transparency over his finances and revoked his bail bond.

The shooting provoked widespread outrage after Zimmerman, 28, who is half-white and half-Hispanic, was not charged following the initial investigation.

Martin's family and supporters have claimed racial bias in the case and also have slammed Florida's controversial gun laws.

In his first-ever media interview last month, Zimmerman apologized for the killing but insisted it was done in self-defense, saying: "I'm not a racist and I'm not a murderer."



**Police and wildlife rangers stand next to a dead humpback whale lying in a rock pool at Newport beach in Sydney August 1, 2012. Residents of Newport, a popular surfing beach in Sydney, woke to find the corpse of the 30-ton humpback whale washed up in an ocean swimming pool yesterday, according to local media.**

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Obama hopes boosted by swing state poll

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama has opened clear leads over Republican Mitt Romney in three vital states, new polls found yesterday, in a scenario likely to see him reelected if repeated in November.

Surveys of Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania by Quinnipiac University and the New York Times and CBS News showed the Democratic president breaking the crucial 50 percent barrier, less than 100 days before November's election.

Large numbers of those polled saw Romney unfavorably, in a worrying sign for the presumptive Republican nominee who is trying to refocus his attack on Obama's record on the stalled economy after a gaffe-strewn overseas tour.

"If today were November 6, President Barack Obama would sweep the key swing states of Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania and -- if history is any guide -- into a second term," said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

No candidate since 1960 has won the White House without winning two of the trio and Romney's path to victory is wafer thin unless he captures both the perennial bellwether Ohio and the largest swing state, Florida.

Obama led in the polls by 51 to 45 percent in Florida, by

### Wikileaks lawyer 'worried' for Assange health

MADRID (AFP) - The renowned Spanish lawyer representing Julian Assange said he was worried about the WikiLeaks founder's health due to the pressure on him as he fights efforts to extradite him from Britain.

Baltasar Garzon, known for pursuing Chile's former dictator Augusto Pinochet, met Assange, 41, on July 19 in the Ecuadorean embassy in London, where the Australian WikiLeaks man has taken refuge and is seeking asylum.

"He seemed to me steady and determined to continue the fight in which he believes," Garzon told reporters in Madrid. "But at the same time I am worried about his psychological and physical condition, because the tension he is experiencing is very great."

50 to 44 percent in Ohio and by 53 to 42 percent in Pennsylvania, with his advantage underpinned by his appeal to among women voters.

The 50 percent polling barrier is historically an important indicator of a president's prospects for re-election, and Obama has for months struggled to climb above it in national popular vote polls and approval ratings surveys.

Likeability can also be an important indicator of a candidate's electoral performance and Romney's poor showing on this may concern his campaign.

Some 42 percent of Florida voters, 43 percent of Ohioans and 47 percent of Pennsylvanians said they had an unfavorable opinion of him. In all three states Romney's favorable ranking was lower than his unfavorable one.

Obama enjoyed favorable ratings of 50 percent or over in all three battlegrounds.

There were also signs that the Obama's advertising blitz, portraying Romney's career at Bain Capital as that of a heartless corporate raider who got rich by destroying middle class jobs, may be working.

Forty-eight percent of those asked in Florida, 50 percent in Ohio and 51 percent in Pennsylvania said Romney's business experience was too focused on profits rather than equipping him to get the economy going again.

On the economy, the key issue in the 2012 race, Obama and Romney were essentially tied -- a symbolic victory for the president given that the recovery has slowed and the unemployment rate is at a painful 8.2 percent.

Though Obama appears to be doing well in the three swing states, other polls of the wider race give him a narrower lead or show him a tie with Romney.



**AFP photo shows people walking down a flooded road in Anju city in North Korea's South Phongan province. North Koreans hit by recent deadly floods badly need drinking water, food and medical assistance, an aid group said Wednesday after official media had reported 88 dead and nearly 63,000 homeless**

### US proposes tougher on-line privacy for children

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A US regulator yesterday proposed tougher standards to protect privacy and collection of data of children using the Internet.

The Federal Trade Commission unveiled a proposal to expand the scope of privacy rule not just to website operators, but to third-party applications and "plug-ins" which may be on social networks or on mobile phones.

The proposal would modify the definitions of "operator" and "website or online service directed to children"

"This change would make clear that an operator of a child-directed site or service that chooses to integrate the services of others that collect personal information from its

visitors should itself be considered a covered 'operator' under the rule," the FTC said in a statement.

The move comes after Facebook said it was working on technology that would permit children under the age of 13 to use the social network site with parental supervision.

Facebook currently requires members to be at least 13, but the new effort is being made because many children lie about their age to get access to the world's biggest social network.

A 2010 investigation by The Wall Street Journal found that popular children's websites installed more data-gathering technology on computers than websites aimed at adults.

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS



**PARAGUAY, Asunción :** People protest in Asuncion on July 31, 2012 against the entry of Venezuela to Mercosur regional trading bloc, which was made official Tuesday during a Mercosur Extraordinary Summit in Brasilia. (AFP PHOTO)



**PHILIPPINES, Manila :** People collect recyclable materials amongst the rubbish washed ashore on Roxas boulevard promenade in Manila on August 1, 2012, as heavy rains and strong winds brought about by Typhoon Saola hit the capital city for another day. Hundreds of people fled their homes, as Typhoon Saola brought heavy rains, floods and powerful waves to the Philippines, bringing the death toll to 14 after four days of bad weather. (AFP PHOTO)

## Brussels launches campaign against counterfeit toys

**BRUSSELS (AFP)** - The European Commission launched a new campaign yesterday against counterfeit toys, which are mostly made in China and can pose health risks to children.

The campaign features a video of an animated robot advising would-be buyers to always look for the CE mark on toys, which means the item complies with European Union safety rules.

Other advice includes never giving toys with detachable parts to kids under three years in age and to read all warnings that accompany a toy.

The commission said more than half of all dangerous products sold in the EU were made in China.

EU Industry Commissioner Antonio Tajani wants greater traceability of products, and said counterfeit merchandise worth more than 500 billion

## Parched fields as drought devastates US crops

Two thirds of the continental United States is now suffering from the most widespread drought since the 1950s.

And the drought in America's breadbasket is intensifying at an unprecedented rate, driving concern food prices could soar if crops in the world's key producer are decimated.

The latest US Drought Monitor reported a nearly threefold increase in areas of extreme drought in the course of a single week in the nine Midwestern states where three quarters of the country's corn and soybean crops are produced.

"It's kind of like being sucker-punched in the stomach," Larry Hasheider, an Illinois farmer told AFP. "You think, 'OK, it's bad this week, but next week it can't be this way. Well, it is."

Hasheider is fortunate -- most of his farm is irrigated -- but officials say only about 15 percent of US cornfields are. Some rural water suppliers are talking about mandatory restrictions because they have seen such a dramatic drop in the water table.

The percentage of the nation's corn crop rated very poor or poor rose to 48 percent in the week ending July 29, while 47 percent of the soybean crop was in very poor or poor con-



**AFP photo shows a field of dead corn sitting next to the Lincolnland Agri-Energy ethanol plant in Palestine, Illinois, on July 25.**

dition, according to the US Department of Agriculture.

That's the worst rating since the drought of 1988, which cut production by 20 percent and cost the economy tens of billions of dollars.

With grazing pastures also parched and feed prices at record highs, many ranchers are sending their animals to slaughter early because it's too costly to keep them until full size.

President Barack Obama's administration has opened up protected US land to help farmers and ranchers and has encouraged crop insurance companies to forgo charging interest for a month.

It has also provided emergency low-interest loans to

farmers in the 1,234 counties across 31 states which have been declared disaster areas due to the drought.

Local governments are also trying to help. The state of Missouri has offered millions in grants to help farmers and ranchers drill or deepen wells and expand irrigation systems.

Experts predict there will still be a sizable harvest -- just not anywhere close to the bounty of recent years or the bumper crop predicted before the rain stopped.

And that will likely bring price increases for food and all types of products for years to come.

The impact spreads far beyond just cereal or bread -- or a single growing season -- because so much of the US crop is used as livestock feed and those herds are being culled, Funk explained.

Due to the early culls, getting the US cattle herds back up to pre-drought levels would take at least two years, he said, warning that pork and poultry production was also at risk.

Out in the fields, many farmers are trying to salvage what they can by chopping the stunted plants into feed for livestock. So few ears of corn are growing, it just isn't worth harvesting.



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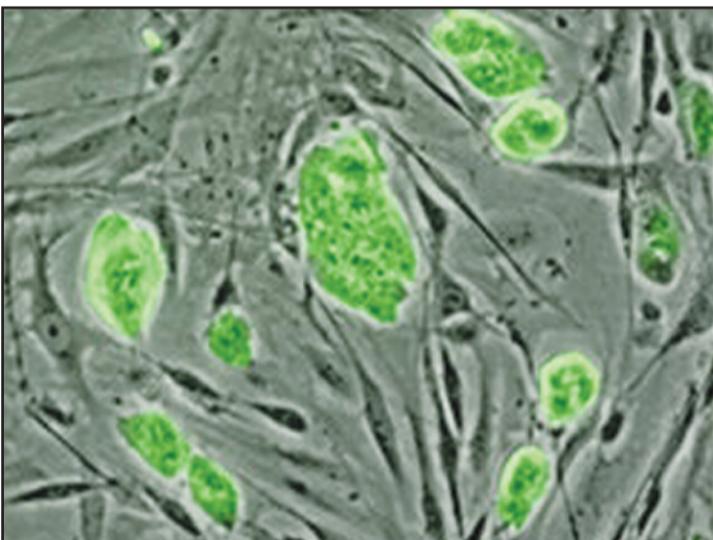
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## Stem cells blamed for cancer re-growth



PARIS (AFP) - Researchers presented evidence Wednesday for the existence of cancer stem cells, with three different studies seeking to end a decades-old scientific dispute about how tumours grow.

The discovery should lead to new drugs targeting stem cells that cause tumours to reappear after cancer therapy, the teams argued in three scientific papers published simultaneously in the journals *Nature* and *Science*.

"The hypothesis (that cancer stem cells exist) has been around now for some time. Hopefully these three papers now make an end to the discussion," Dutch researcher Hugo Snippert told AFP.

All the studies were conducted on lab mice.

Some experts have maintained that tumours are com-

prised of masses of cancer cells that are all the same, and all dividing.

But Snippert said the latest papers clearly show a hierarchy of cells in tumours, with different functions -- including stem cells that act as cancer cell factories.

Stem cells are infant cells that develop into specialised tissues of the body, touted by medicine as a future source from which to replenish damaged tissue.

In the case of intestinal cancer, a healthy stem cell mutates to create a "cell of origin" from which a tumour grows, said Snippert. The tumour contains stem cells which then create new cancer cells.

Cancer stem cells must now be targeted for drug research, argued Snippert, a member of the University Medical Center

Utrecht research team which focused on intestinal cancer and published its findings in *Science*.

"Since the cancer stem cells are so similar to normal stem cells, most treatments also harm the normal stem cells," he said. "That is why it is important now to have a look at cancer stem cells, comparing them to normal stem cells to find the differences."

Focusing on incurable brain tumours, a US-based research team said they had found a subset of cells that appear to be the source of new tumour growth after chemotherapy.

"This study serves as a proof of principle that in at least some solid tumours functional cancer stem cells exist," researcher Luis Parada of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center told AFP.

Also writing in *Nature*, a separate team in Belgium and the UK found a sub-population of tumour cells with stem-like properties in skin cancer.

"Taken together these reports provide evidence that point towards the existence of cells that may represent cancer stem cells," said a *Nature* press statement.

Snippert said the latest technology has allowed the scientists to examine tumour cancer growth in as natural a state as possible, unlike earlier studies that involved tumour trans-

plants in lab mice.

The Dutch team was able to breed special mice in which different tumour cells displayed different colours which could then be studied under a microscope.

Say the tumour cells were red and the stem cell blue, the scientists could follow the stem cell's progeny as they spread in the tumour.

"Because of the colours we could visualise everything within one and the same tumour in its original mouse at

the original position where the tumour was formed," Snippert said. "It is more natural... as it would behave normally in patients."

The three teams studied different organs using somewhat different techniques, but all with technology that allowed them to let the tumours grow undisturbed, said Snippert.

"Better understanding of the cancer stem cells will be critical for re-evaluation of existing therapies and development of new ones," added Parada.

### Health Tip: Home Remedies for Dark Circles Under eyes and Puffiness

Dark circles under eyes usually aren't a sign of exhaustion or serious illness, though they can make you feel old, unhealthy and tired. Home Remedies that Remove Dark Circles under the eyes are fairly easy to find, here are some;

\*Green tea bags on the eyes (when cool, rest on eyes for 15-20 minutes) or try also with Cucumber or Potato slices.

\*Get plenty of sleep (sleep plays a huge role in the appearance of dark circles).

\*Vitamin E and Vitamin C. (Diet plays a very important part in dark circle prevention so remember to include a decent amount of vegetables in your diet)

\*Leave a spoon in the freezer for about 10 minutes. then take it out and rest to the under-eye area.

\*Drink Lots of Water (Dehydration can cause bags under the eyes)



## Sci-Tech

### Twitter clocks half-billion users: monitor

PARIS (AFP) - Over 500 million people are on micro-blogging site Twitter and Americans and Brazilians are the most connected, according to a study by social media monitor Semicast released.

Twitter surpassed the half-billion mark at the end of June, with the United States accounting for both the most users and largest number of "tweets" or short messages of no more than 140 characters posted on the site.

The Paris-based monitor carried out the study by analysing data like time zone, geolocation and language available for the social networking site's total 517 million accounts.

The US accounted for more than 141 million of Twitter users, with Brazil ranking second with 41 million after see-

ing its number rise by 23 percent since the start of the year. Japan came in third with 35 million users.

Americans also posted the highest number of Twitter messages, with 25.8 percent of all tweets hailing from the US.

Japan came second accounting for 10.6 percent of all tweets, making Japanese the second most common language on Twitter after English.

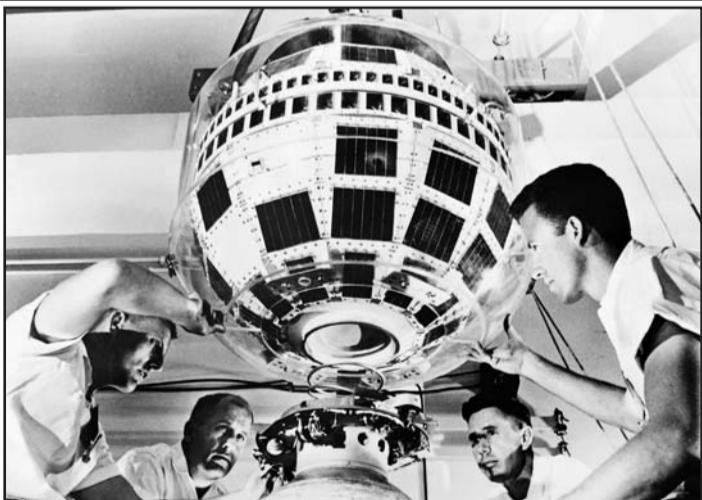
The study found Jakarta to be the most active Twitter zone, with 2.4 percent of all tweets originating in the Indonesian capital.

The popularity of Twitter continued to soar in the Arab world following the site's key role in the "Arab Spring" revolutions last year, with Arabic now the site's sixth most common language.



**BUPHOPAR :** A Pakistani villager carries dead peacocks at Buphohar village in Thar desert, part of southern Sindh province on August 1, 2012. Dozens of wild peacocks have died suddenly in Pakistan, prompting experts to fear an outbreak of the highly contagious Newcastle disease.

AFP PHOTO



**CAPE CANAVERAL - 1962 :** NASA and Bell technicians prepare to wire together the components of Telstar 1 satellite before its launching on July 10, 1962 from Cape Canaveral. Telstar 1 relayed through space the first television pictures, telephone calls, fax images and provided the first live transatlantic television feed. Its placement into orbit is considered the birth of modern multimedia global communications.

AFP/Photo

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### China to land first moon probe next year

BEIJING (AFP) - China has said it will land an exploratory craft on the moon for the first time next year, as part of an ambitious space programme that includes a long-term plan to put a man on the moon.

China's third lunar probe will blast off in the second half of 2013 and attempt to land and transmit back a survey of the moon's surface, state television reported.

If it succeeds, experts said it would be the first craft to land on the moon as part of a mission -- as opposed to performing a controlled crash landing at the end of one -- since the Soviet space programme achieved the feat in the 1970s.

Beijing sees its multi-billion-dollar space programme as a symbol of its rising global stature, growing technical expertise, and the Communist Party's success in turning around the fortunes of the once

poverty-stricken nation.

The Asian superpower has been ramping up its manned activities as the United States, long the leader in the field, has scaled back some of its programmes, such as retiring its iconic space shuttle fleet.

In its last white paper on space, China said it was working towards landing a man on the moon -- a feat so far only achieved by the United States, most recently in 1972 -- although it did not give a time frame.

It has spent about 39 billion yuan (\$6.1 billion) on its manned space programme since it began 20 years ago, state media have said.

Most recently, a 13-day voyage of the Shenzhou-9 spacecraft became China's



1999 - Shenzhou-1

longest-ever space mission and was notable for including the nation's first woman astronaut among its three-member crew.

The crew also achieved China's first manual docking with an orbital module, the Tiangong-1, a highly complex manoeuvre first conducted by the Americans in the 1960s and essential to building a permanent manned space station.

The first key achievement in that programme came in 1999 with the launch of the unmanned Shenzhou-1 craft.

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# CROSSWORD

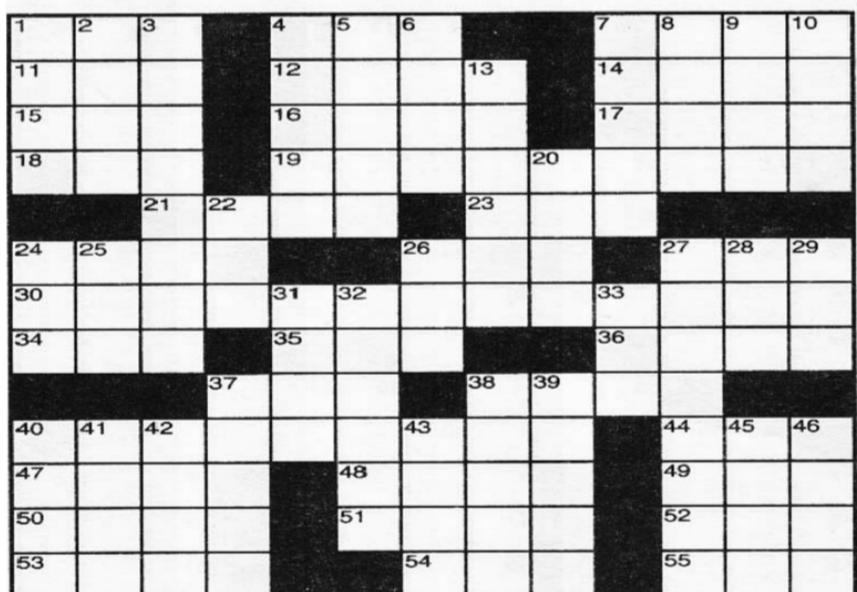
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**ACROSS**

- Joan of \_\_\_
- Place for a sauna and massage
- File
- Bathroom, in Brighton
- Mantle
- Soprano's song
- Travel stop
- Unsealed
- Force
- Make lace
- Bird in a Christmas song
- European ruminants
- River, in

**PIECE RALLY**

Juarez	ingredients
24. Bradley or Sharif	48. Zest source
26. Cistern	49. "Fire and ___"
27. Spanish hero, El ___	50. Feathery herb
30. Joining in	51. Olden weapon
34. Nursery item	52. Sphere, poetically
35. Edinburgh souvenir	53. Monger
36. Famed volcano	54. Mess up
37. Playbill word	55. Betel or litchi
38. 1979 Jill Clayburgh film	
40. Stop on a tour of Athens	
44. Danson of "CSI"	
47. Dish of many	

**DOWN**

- Dismounted from a horse
- Novelist Jaffe
- Like gardener Mary
- Range
- Duvalier and Hemingway
- Imitative one

- Major source of WWII info
- Barren
- Confess, slangily
- Party food
- Catch in a sting operation
- "Delta Lady" Coolidge
- Leftover scrap
- Choose
- Great Leap Forward launcher
- Get-up-and-go
- 1948 Triple Crown winner
- Process suffix
- Genetic initis.
- Bug bite payoff
- Bows to a whim
- Decimal base
- Coral islands formation
- Isolationist
- Below
- Pea casings
- "It's a Sin to Tell \_\_\_"
- Lunar trench
- Number of Dvorak symphonies
- Tan, to a designer
- Obligation

**SOLUTION**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11			12		13	14			
15			16			17			
18			19		20				
	21	22							
24	25		26			27	28	29	
30			31	32		33			
34			35		36				
	37			38	39				
40	41	42		43		44	45	46	
47			48			49			
50			51			52			
53			54			55			

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

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5	2				8		6	9	
	8	1				6			
3	6	9			4				7
4					3	2	1		
	9	2	5			4	3	6	
		7	8	1					5
9					2		5	8	1
			4			9	2		
	1	5			6		3	4	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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## Finance

### Fed holds fire on new stimulus despite weak growth

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Federal Reserve downgraded its assessment of the US economy yesterday saying growth had slowed, but shied away from launching a fresh round of economic stimulus.

"Economic activity decelerated somewhat over the first half of this year," the Fed said at the conclusion of a two-day top-level meeting as it left current monetary policies in place.

The interest rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee said it expected "economic growth to remain moderate over coming quarters and then to pick up very gradually."

"The unemployment rate

will decline only slowly."

But there was no new action to juice the economy.

Instead bank policymakers reiterated their pledge to leave interest rates close to zero until the end of 2014 and said they stood ready to act.

The Fed has kept interest rates at historic lows, between zero and 0.25 percent, since December 2008 in a bid to spur recovery from the Great Recession.

The committee vowed to "provide additional accommodation as needed to promote a

### IMF: Japan must do more to shrink public debt

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan must do more to shrink its massive public debt, the International Monetary Fund said yesterday, but added that the nation's disaster-hit economy was recovering well despite turmoil overseas.

The Washington-based IMF "welcomed" Tokyo's plan to double the country's sales tax to 10 percent by 2015, a deeply unpopular move that the government said was crucial to put Japan's fiscal house in

stronger economic recovery and sustained improvement in labor market conditions in a context of price stability."

With few tools left in the box and the outlook murky, the Fed has been reluctant to embark on a third round of asset purchases, or quantitative easing, dubbed QE3.

Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues have preferred to wait and see whether a recent slowdown has been a blip, or a harbinger of worse times ahead.

order.

The legislation has passed the lower house of parliament but it remained unclear whether it would get a stamp of approval in the upper house before becoming law.

Japan is grappling with a debt that stands at more than double gross domestic product, the highest ratio in the industrialised world, and it is poised to grow as a rapidly ageing population turns to public pensions.

#### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



<b>Daily Exchange Rates</b>				
Current as of: 08/01/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	<b>1.77</b>	<b>1.78</b>	<b>1.80</b>
Dutch Antilles	ANG	<b>98.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.20</b>
Canada	CAD	<b>1.76</b>	<b>1.78</b>	<b>1.80</b>
Britia	GBP	<b>2.72</b>	<b>2.77</b>	<b>2.83</b>
Switzerland	CHF	<b>182.13</b>	<b>182.85</b>	<b>183.65</b>
Netherlands	EUR	<b>217.05</b>	<b>219.03</b>	<b>221.23</b>
Sweden	SEK	<b>25.34</b>	<b>26.06</b>	<b>26.86</b>
Denmark	DKK	<b>28.46</b>	<b>29.18</b>	<b>29.98</b>
Norway	NOK	<b>28.69</b>	<b>29.41</b>	<b>30.21</b>
Japan	JPY	<b>225.63</b>	<b>227.69</b>	<b>229.97</b>

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### IMF chief warns on decline in confidence

WASHINGTON (AFP) - International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde yesterday warned that the world was suffering a crisis of confidence amid tumult in Europe and looming problems in the United States.

Citing a litany of problems, from Greece's sovereign debt crisis to poor economic data, Lagarde told reporters "what we're seeing at the moment is clearly a decline of confidence."

And for good reason given the "relatively bleak picture" on the global economic scene.

"We don't see a major

upturn either in advanced economies or in emerging markets," she said.

Lagarde also warned that the eurozone's long-running public debt crisis is not the only problem confronting world leaders.

She stressed the need for the United States to avoid year-end mandated drastic spending cuts and tax increases. Congress has the power to avert the so-called "fiscal cliff. There are serious questions concerning the US economic future, particularly as a result of the possible fiscal cliff."

### Spanish regions rebel against debt limits

MADRID (AFP) - Several Spanish regions are rebelling against the central government's decision to cap their debt, raising fresh doubts yesterday over its ability to meet deficit targets agreed with Brussels.

Regional finance chiefs at a meeting with the national treasury agreed late Tuesday to an overall debt ceiling for the 17 regions of 15.1 percent of output in 2012 and 16 percent in 2013.

But four regions, including two of the largest, Catalonia and Andalucia, refused to accept the central government's clampdown on their finances.

Catalonia, Spain's richest region with an economy equal in size to Portugal's, boycotted the meeting altogether while the finance chief of Andalucia, the country's most populous, walked out of the gathering.

Two smaller regions, Asturias and the Canary Islands, voted against the targets at the meeting.

"The lack of internal cohesion is highly damaging to the international credibility of Spain at a key moment for its economy and that of the euro-zone," Barcelona-based daily La Vanguardia wrote in an editorial yesterday.

Spain has slashed spending and raised taxes as it seeks to convince markets that it will not need a full bailout, on top of a 100 billion euro (\$123 billion) credit line from the EU agreed in June for its stricken banks.

The regional governments, which fund education and healthcare, are crucial to Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's effort to bring the country's overall public deficit down to just below a EU limit of 3.0 percent of output by 2014.

They accounted for two-thirds of Spain's deficit slippage last year, when the country missed its target of keeping the deficit to 6.0 percent of economic output and instead let it slide to 8.9 percent.

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**ROME (AFP)** - Italy's highest court this week ruled that telling a man he has "no balls" as an insult is a crime punishable with a fine because it hurts male pride in a ruling on a curious row between two cousins. The case was brought to the supreme court by a lawyer named only as Vittorio against his cousin Alberto, a justice of the peace, for the phrase uttered during a heated courtroom exchange in the southern Italian city of Potenza. The court also found that because the insult was uttered at the workplace with third parties present it could be seen as damaging Vittorio's reputation. Vittorio's lawyer had argued that the expression implied that his client was "worth less than other men because he did not have the attributes." A judge will now rule on the fine that Alberto should pay to Vittorio. The ruling, which comes after years of legal dispute, did not specify whether any insults against women should now also be considered crimes.

## Somali comedian who poked fun at Islamists shot dead

MOGADISHU (AFP) - Gunmen shot dead a well-known comedian known for poking fun at Al-Qaeda linked Shebab insurgents in the Somali capital Mogadishu, officials and colleagues said Wednesday.

Abdi Jeylani Malaq Marshale, in his late thirties or early forties, was killed late Tuesday, minutes after leaving Kulmiye radio station, where he worked as drama producer and performer.

"Two men shot and seriously injured Marshale... the comedian was later pronounced dead," said police lieutenant Mohamed Gaal, adding that "unfortunately the assailants escaped."

The shooting of Marshale, who also worked for the London-based Universal TV sta-



tion and who reported having received death threats on several occasions, is the latest in a string of apparently targeted killings against media workers.

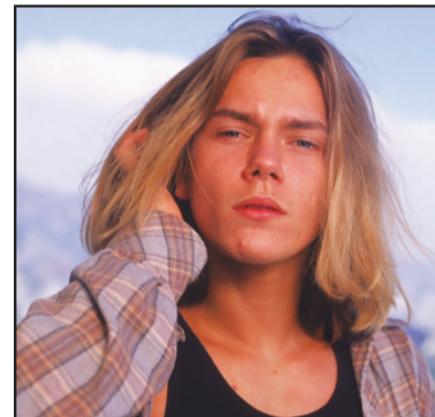
Colleagues mourned the loss of a man they called a leader of the war-torn nation's comedy scene. His shows have aired on Universal TV and are also available on YouTube.

"This is a black day for the entire entertainment industry,

he was a leader in Somali comedy and everybody liked his performance," said Yusuf Keynan, a presenter at Kulmiye radio.

Marshale was known for airing dramas making fun of the extremist Shebab and for participating in youth advocacy programmes aimed at preventing young Somalis from joining the insurgents.

## River Phoenix's last film to screen 20 years after death



make a suspenseful movie."

Dark Blood tells the story of Boy (played by Phoenix), a young widower who retreats into the desert to live a reclusive life after his wife died as a result of nuclear testing.

He saves a stranded couple on their second honeymoon, only to keep them hostage as he fell in love with the female lead character (played by Judy Davis), according to a statement published on the Nether-

lands Film Festival's website.

Because of Phoenix's death, Anouk said: "My father had to find a creative solution, about which I cannot say much as there is an element of surprise."

Phoenix died aged 23 and at the time was regarded as one of the most promising rising young actors of his generation together with his peers such as Johnny Depp and Brad Pitt.

His death at the time was compared to that of another silver screen legend James Dean, who perished in a car crash in 1955 at the age of 24.

**Michael Jackson's siblings resume their attack on his will - After a feud over the validity of Michael Jackson's will has escalated into open warfare with the late singer's brother Randy accusing estate executors of trying to kill their mother. Randy Jackson fears that the executors of his late brother Michael's estate are "trying to manipulate" people. He said that "The Estate is trying to isolate my Mother from her family JUST LIKE THEY DID TO MICHAEL, in order to propagate their lies, financial agendas and to protect a fraudulent will. The same people that are trying to manipulate my mother are the same people that were involved with my brother when he died. It is my fear and belief, that they are trying to take my mother's life." It has apparently been incredibly difficult for members of the family to communicate with Katherine and the kids since TJ was named the children's guardian Katherine's lawyer Perry Sanders announced that she is now seeking joint custody with TJ. Meanwhile the executors of the Michael Jackson estate have sent a letter to most of the Jackson family barring them from Katherine Jackson's rented home in Calabasas, California. The estate rents the house for Mrs. Jackson and Michael's three kids. But now Joe Jackson as well as Randy, Jermaine, Janet, and Debbie, any of their kids or spouses, plus Mrs. Jackson's secretary Janice Smith-they are all barred from entering after the sort of house attack conducted by Randy, Jermaine and Janet Jackson last week- in which the three siblings tried to take Michael Jackson's kids, exchanged epithets with them etc.**

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## Top violinist reunited with lost Stradivarius

GENEVA (AFP) - The absent-minded passenger who left a Stradivarius violin worth millions of euros on a train in Switzerland last week was identified as a top concert violinist by the Berner Zeitung.

Alexander Dubach, an acclaimed exponent of the works of Paganini, forgot the precious instrument on Friday when he got off the suburban train at Bern, near his home in Thun.

It was handed in at the station's lost-property office on Sunday after a police appeal for help.

Pascal Tretola, the fellow passenger who returned the violin, told the paper that he had not been able to take it back any earlier because he had to work on Saturday.

"There were some drunks in the train, which is why I took the violin case to make sure nothing happened to it," he said, adding that he had sus-

pected it was valuable.

When he heard the police appeal, he was "very surprised".

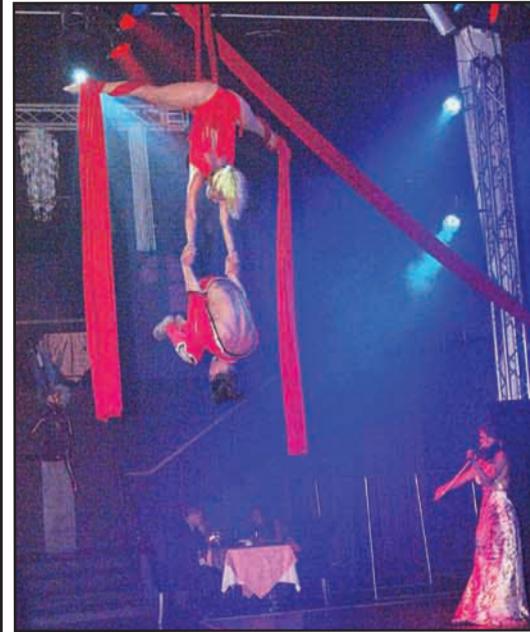
Dubach, who does not own the violin, was very relieved. "I would never have been able to repair the damage," he said, vowing never to transport it by himself again.

"I will pick it up just before a concert and give it back straight away afterwards," he said.

The violin's owner, who wants to remain anonymous, told the paper and he and Dubach would reward Tretola amply even though he "had not asked for anything."

Around 600 violins made by Italian master craftsman Antonio Stradivari are still in existence. In 2008, a US violinist left a \$4-million (3.2-million-euro) Stradivarius in the back of a New York cab. The cabbie returned the violin to its owner.

## A new diversion in at Paseo Herencia Mall: "Enchanted Aruba"



**Acrobatic dance performed to famous concert violinist**



**Beautiful costumes**

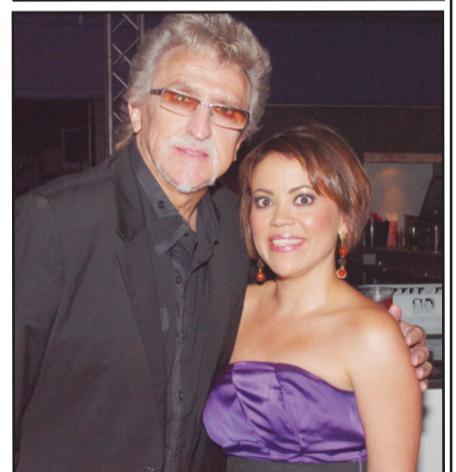


Dinner theater has returned to Aruba with the opening of "Enchanted Aruba" located on the second level of the Paseo Herencia Mall in Palm Beach. The fantastic facility in the mall's mezzanine next to the cinemas was specifically constructed to be such a venue, and the new variety show "Enchanted Aruba" makes the most of the superb sound system and high ceilings for over an hour of singers, dancers, tumblers and some impressive aerial performances.

Producers Jorge di Paolo and John Stuart are proud of their new production and look forward to welcoming any seeking an appealing show and an entertaining way to kill an

evening. Jorge, known in Las Vegas as "Mr. Entertainment," is no stranger to Aruba. He lived here as an entertainer and producer in the 80's starring in "Breakdance Fever" and performing a Gaucho act. During the premiere of the new show, he demonstrated some of that same elegant style by taking to the stage for a show-stopping tango with his daughter. John Stuart is the creator of the longest running Las Vegas show at the Imperial Palace, "Legends in Concert," still welcoming appreciative audiences after 30 years.

"Enchanted Aruba" is a mélange of entertaining acts and dramatically staged and costumed dance numbers blended with a breathtaking parade of acrobatic expertise by the famed Ritmo Cubano troupe. Paula Ridderstad, a Portuguese recording artist relocated to Aruba, provides appealing vocals, and Angela Flores, first violinist of the Maracaibo Philharmonic Orchestra, demonstrates her virtuosity accompanied by a lovely, romantic duet dance and acrobatics.



**Producer John Stuart and Valerie Pietersz Camacho**

The program features renowned contortionist Hayley Kent, a Cirque du Soleil alumnus, directly from Las Vegas and Los Latin Cowboys Live, returning to the stage, stronger than ever, mixing great humor, audience participation and compelling rhythms.

"Enchanted Aruba" features a dinner show for \$59.95, with children under 12, \$44.95. For the show only is \$44.95, children's price: \$29.95; VIP Seating with souvenir poster & picture: \$69.95. For reservations call: 592-4466 or visit their website: <http://enchantedaruba.com/> Visit their Facebook page to keep up on the latest enchanted news.



**Paseo Owners Alex Lovera and Dan Oduber**



## Summer Olympics: July 27 - August 12



### Gyurta wins 200m breaststroke in world record



LONDON (AFP) - Hungarian Daniel Gyurta broke British hearts when he beat off Michael Jamieson in world-record time to win the men's 200m breaststroke gold medal yesterday. The dual world and European champion had to pull out all stops to fight off the strong-finishing Jamieson amid the din of the roaring home crowd to win in a new world mark of 2:07.28. Gyurta broke the record of 2:07.31 set by Australian Christian Sprenger at the 2009 world championships in Rome. Jamieson took silver in 2:07.43 and Japan's Ryo Tateishi claimed bronze, a full second back in 2:08.29. "I can't believe it, it was my dream when I was young (to get the medal and the world record). Japan's Kosuke Kitajima, going for a third straight Olympic title, was shut out of the medals in fourth. The roar from the home crowd was ear-splitting as Jamieson issued his challenge as Britain seek their first gold medal in the pool.



LONDON - Venezuela's Ruben Limardo tore off his headpiece, pumped both arms in the air and ran around the arena after winning the Olympic gold medal in the individual epee, beating out silver medalist Bartosz Piasecki of Norway by the score of 15-10 in the final round of the tournament. Jung Jinsun of South Korea won the bronze, edging Santa Monica native Seth Kelsey by the tune of 12-11 in a match that needed overtime to decide a winner. Limardo was seeded 12th at the start of the tournament, becoming the highest-seeded competitor to reach the medal rounds. Piasecki, another underdog in the event, took 43rd, 65th and 26th respectively in the last three world championships.

## Eight kicked out as badminton scandal rocks Games

(AFP) - Eight badminton players were disqualified from the Olympics on Wednesday after a scandal over "throwing" matches.

Four pairs in the women's doubles competition -- one from China, one from Indonesia and two from South Korea -- were barred after being hit by disciplinary charges of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) took action.

The BWF confirmed that the eight had been disqualified for trying to lose matches in the round robin phase to manipulate the knockout draw.

A last-ditch appeals process was also rejected in the minutes leading up to the scheduled quarter-final start time.

The players at the heart of the scandal had been charged with "not using one's best efforts to win a match" and "conducting oneself in a manner that is clearly abusive or detrimental to the sport".



Tournament referee Torsten Berg speaks to badminton players from China and South Korea during their women's doubles match on wednesday.

They were allegedly attempting to manipulate the final standings in the first-round group stage, with two pairs who had already qualified apparently wanting to lose to secure a favourable draw in the next round.

The eight are Chinese are top seed Yu Yang and Wang

Xiaoli, South Korea's Ha Jung-Eun and Kim Min-Jung as well as Jung Kyung-Eun and Kim Ha-Na and Indonesian pair Meiliana Jauhari and Greysia Polii.

The Group A match at Wembley Arena between Chinese top seeds Yu Yang and Wang Xiaoli and unseeded South Korean pair Jung Kyung and Kim Ha-Na late Tuesday came under scrutiny by the BWF after the Chinese lost heavily.

The longest rally in the match was just four shots.

Their defeat meant Yu and Wang avoided playing fellow Chinese pair Tian Qing and Zhao Yunlei in the quarter-finals.

London Olympics chairman Sebastian Coe described the scandal as "depressing" and "unacceptable", but officials said spectators who had paid to watch the farcical matches would not be refunded.

Leading badminton figures welcomed the disqualifications in a sport not known for its iron-handed discipline.

"As a sportsman, that is really wrong," Charoen Wattanasin, executive board member of the BWF, and a Thailand Olympic Committee vice-president, told AFP.

"Once you are on the court, like it or not, you have to try to win. That is why the spectators paid their money."

"Sooner or later something had to be done. I see the motive. I feel sorry for what happened. I'm not condemning anyone. But the disciplinary committee had to do something."

### Great Britain wins first gold medal



LONDON - Prime Minister David Cameron's wish came true Wednesday as host nation Great Britain won a first gold medal -- at last -- at the London Olympics. Britain had to wait till day five to strike gold, with rowers Helen Glover and Heather Stanning taking the women's pair title. The 27-year-old Stanning and Glover, 26, established an imperious lead from the start in the coxless pair's -- stretching it to as much as two lengths at one point -- as they opened Britain's gold medal account. Australia's Kate Hornsey and Sarah Tait claimed silver, with Juliette Haigh and Rebecca Scown of New Zealand a mere 0.33 seconds behind in third. Tens of thousands of British fans -- eager for a first victory for the Olympic hosts -- had lined the banks of Eton Dorney to witness the Britons finish in 7:27.13, three seconds ahead of Australia.

## Wiggins blitzes rivals to claim fourth Olympic gold



LONDON (AFP) - Tour de France champion Bradley Wiggins of Britain bagged the fourth Olympic gold medal of his career here Wednesday after blitzing his rivals to win the men's road race time trial.

Germany's reigning world champion Tony Martin finished second to take the silver with Britain's Chris Froome in third taking the bronze.

Wiggins, crowned Britain's first yellow jersey champion 10 days ago, crossed in 50min 39sec for the 44 km race against the clock which started and finished at the former residence of King Henry VIII, Hampton Court Palace.

Reigning world champion Martin was racing under par after suffering a broken wrist on the Tour de France and he

did well to clock 51:21.

Froome, who finished runner-up to Wiggins on the Tour de France, timed 51:47 to keep American Taylor Phinney off the bronze by just 11secs.

Defending Olympic champion Fabian Cancellara, who was also racing with injury after banging his shoulder Saturday in a crash during the men's road race, finished well out of the medals, more than two minutes behind Wiggins with 52:53.

It is Wiggins' first Olympic title on the road, having won his three previous gold in track cycling's pursuit events.

"I cannot put it into words. I wouldn't do it justice," said Wiggins. "To win an Olympic gold in your home city. When you win in the velodrome, there are three or four thousand people cheering."

"Here, around the streets of London, the noise is just amazing. I don't think anything will top that. I've just won the Tour de France. It's just been phenomenal."

Now with a total of seven Olympic medals including four gold, Wiggins has overtaken Sir Steve Redgrave's previous record tally of six medals for a Briton.

Redgrave won five gold and one bronze and for Wiggins, the retired rower is still one ahead of him.

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E-mail:  
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## Uchimura rids himself of Olympic 'demon'

LONDON (AFP) - Japan's Kohei Uchimura said he felt like he'd out-run a "demon" after winning his first Olympic title on Wednesday to confirm his position as the world's outstanding male gymnast.

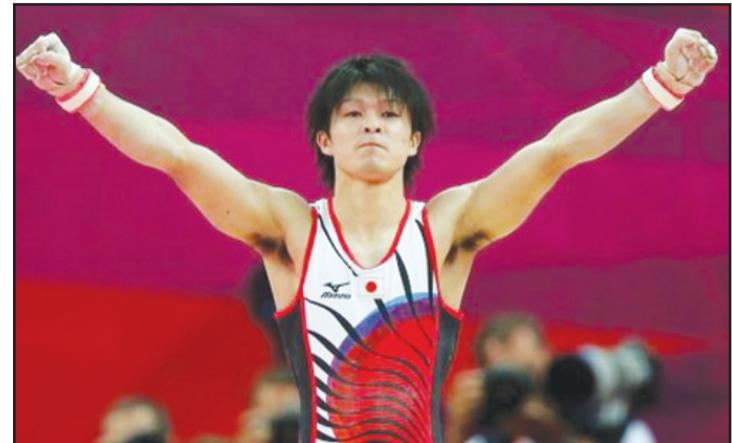
The 23-year-old had been gunning for the all-round gold medal ever since he lost out to China's Yang Wei, who has since retired, at the 2008 Beijing Games.

There have been three consecutive world titles in the intervening years -- an unprecedented feat -- but Uchimura's appetite for success remained unsated.

Matters were not helped by Japan's loss to defending champions China in Monday's team final, but after holding off Germany's Marcel Nguyen to take the individual title on Wednesday, Uchimura admitted to a sense of relief.

"I have been a world champion three times in a row, but this is different," he told reporters at London's North Greenwich Arena. "It's once every four years, so there is a wait. I feel like a demon was chasing me this time."

While his rivals slipped and tumbled around him,



Uchimura drew upon all his trademark poise to deftly plot his route around the apparatus to finish with an average score of 15.448 across the six disciplines.

Only on his final floor exercise did he show any sign of nerves, stumbling slightly as he landed his second tumbling pass, but by then it was too late for his rivals to have any hope of oureahuling him.

Uchimura paid tribute to his mother, who encouraged his early passion for gymnastics and was present in London to witness the crowning moment of her son's career.

"My mother has always been my biggest source of support," he said. "Before the

Games, she told me that the loudest voice in the arena would be hers."

Uchimura's elegance and grace under pressure have prompted some observers to anoint him the greatest male gymnast of all time, but he refused to be drawn into making comparisons with his predecessors.

"The best gymnast of all time? I'm flattered, but at the same time, I can always do better," he said.

Victory made Uchimura the fourth Japanese male gymnast to win the Olympic all-around title, after Yukio Endo (1964), Sawao Kato (1968 and 1972), and Koji Gushiken (1984).

## Juve coach Conte's plea deal rejected

ROME (AFP) - The Italian football federation rejected a three-month ban on Wednesday for Juventus coach Antonio Conte, throwing out a proposed plea bargain for match-fixing as Italy's betting scandal widens.

Conte had originally denied allegations of failing to report match-fixing in two games when he was coach of Siena in the 2010-2011 season. He then proposed a deal with prosecutors for a three-month ban, hoping to avoid a jail sentence.

A disciplinary committee hearing on Wednesday rejected the attempted deal made with

federation prosecutor Stefano Palazzi, leaving Conte facing either a longer ban or a tough sporting trial.

The ruling throws Conte's return to the Juventus sidelines in November into doubt, leaving the Serie A team in a critical situation.

The matches in question, which took place when Siena was in Serie B, were against Novara and Albinoleffe.

The fall-out of the so-called "Calcioscommesse" -- football betting -- investigation has been felt since last year with several high-profile names implicated.

Italy have a history of match-fixing scandals, al-



though they have tended to precede sporting success.

The 1980 "Totonero" scandal saw AC Milan and Lazio relegated to Serie B while star striker Paolo Rossi was banned for two years. He came back just in time to be Italy's hero in their 1982 World Cup victory.

In 2006, Juve were relegated and stripped of their 2005 and 2006 titles for interfering with the referees' commission. Just over a month later, Italy won their fourth World Cup.

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